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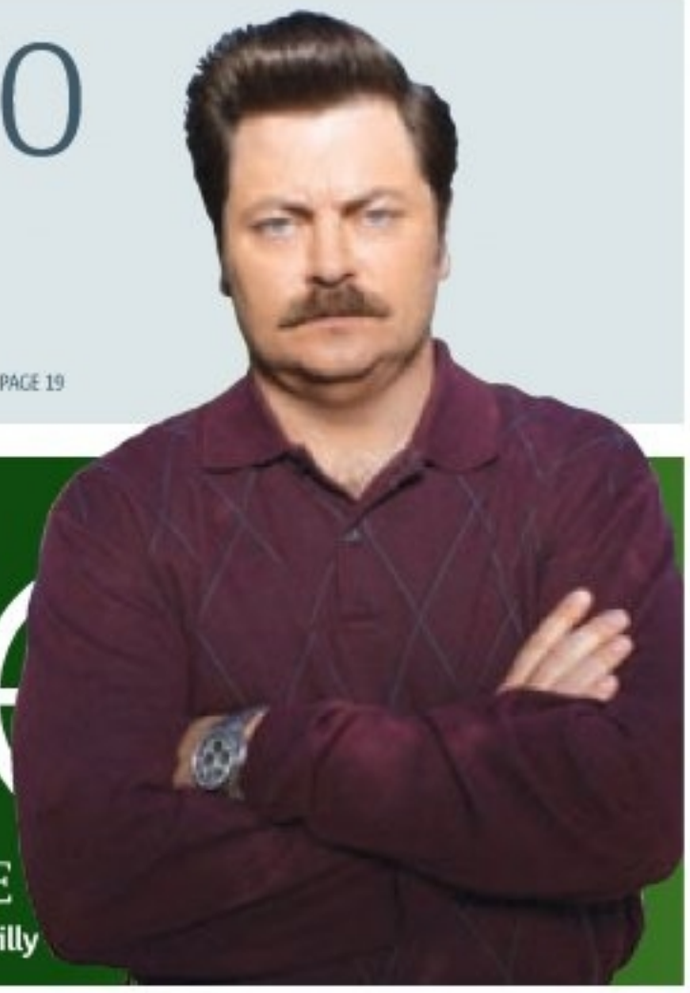
"PARKS AND REC" STARTS ITS FINAL SEASON. PAGE 19



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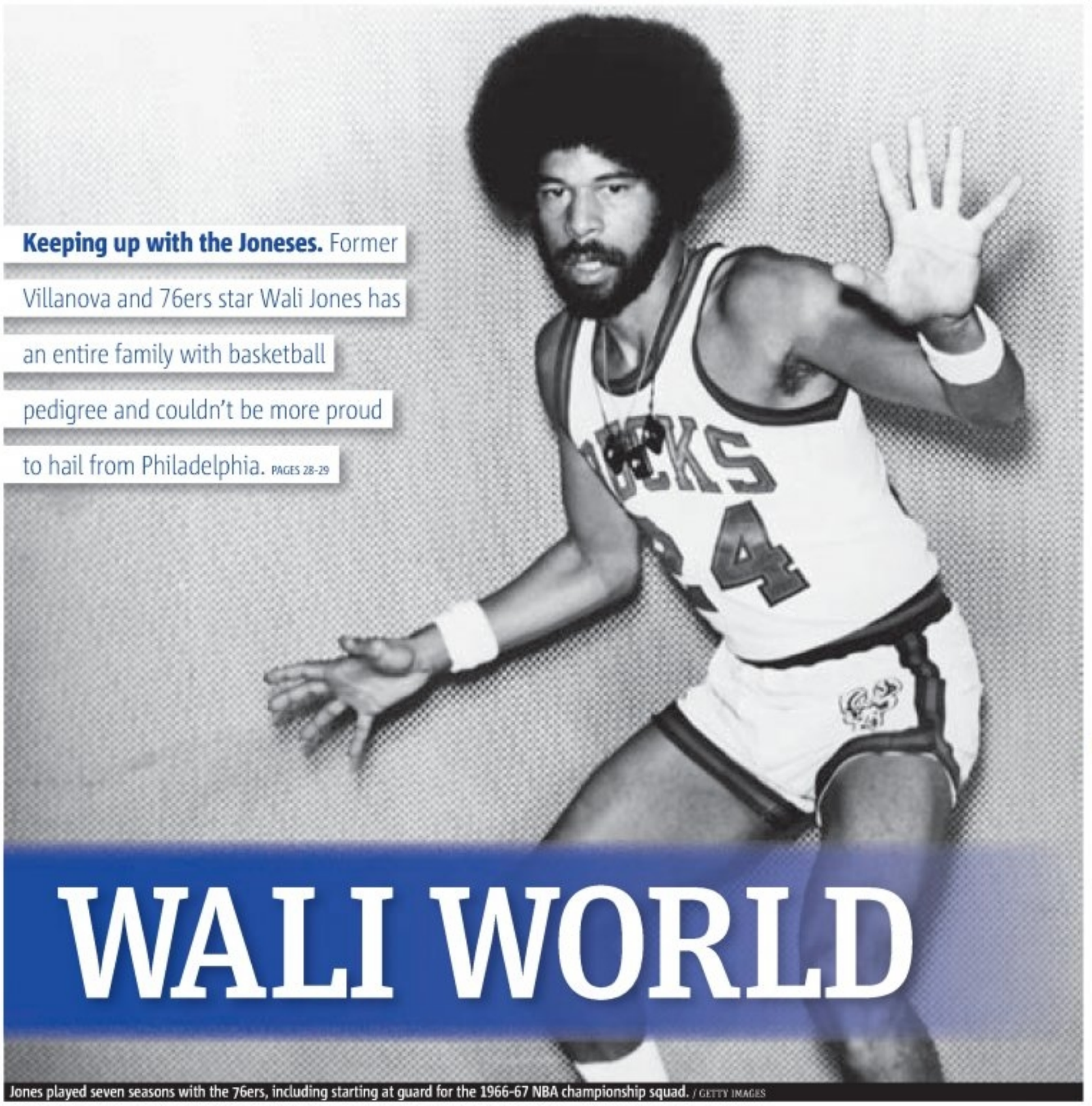

Keeping up with the Joneses. Former Villanova and 76ers star Wali Jones has an entire family with basketball pedigree and couldn't be more proud to hail from Philadelphia. PAGES 28-29

WALI WORLD

Jones played seven seasons with the 76ers, including starting at guard for the 1966-67 NBA championship squad. / GETTY IMAGES

Council pres. Clarke abandons mayoral run

PAGE 02

City Hall celebrates life of Lt. Joyce Craig

PAGE 06

The weight loss secret that no one talks about

PAGE 22

Tracing black history at the PMA

PAGE 23

1 NEWS

Top 3

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2 'Are the 76ers overachieving in 2014-15?'

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On the go

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Faithful turn to open houses for Pope visit

Air Philly. With hotels booked for September, Airbnb is becoming the only other renting option.

Michael Gorman can see the hordes of the faithful heading his way, and he's preparing his spare bedrooms.

Gorman, a frequent user of Airbnb, a Web service that allows homeowners and renters to turn empty rooms into short-term rentals, is readying for the many Catholics, Christians and interested parties descending upon Philadelphia for the Pope's visit at the World Meeting of Families in September.

And he's not the only one. On the website, hundreds of offers are popping up for rental opportunities the week of Sept. 22.

However, according to Chief Deputy City Solicitor Andrew Ross, Airbnb is in violation of the city's zoning code.

Short-term rentals, whether they be hotels or bed and breakfasts, are only permitted in certain areas designated for hotels per the city's restrictions. While most business districts are included, only a few residential blocks are included.

To have a guest stay the night, you are legally required to get a license. But the law is only enforced when a complaint is filed.

"This has become an issue in other cities, New York especially, because people are doing it all the time; it's like their business," Ross said. "So, neighbors of the house or the apartment that's being rented don't like seeing a lot of transient people coming in and out and that's where you get government coming in because it's causing issues with the neighbors."

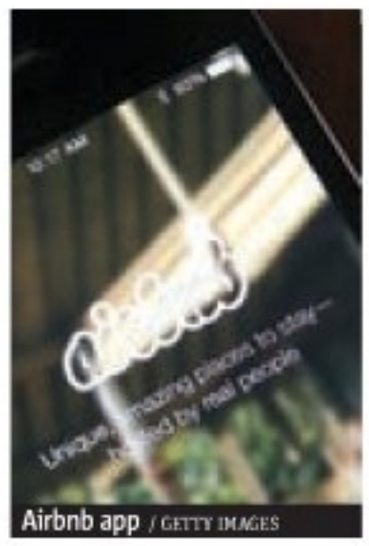
Gorman doesn't seem to have that problem. He and his wife have hosted more than 40 travelers.

"We enjoy doing it," Gorman said. "We meet a lot of interesting people. They actually stay at a room in our home so we sit down and have dinner with them and chat with them."

But this event should bring in a whole new generation.

"We've got a lot of time between now and when the big event happens in September to see if Airbnb starts selling out of all the reasonably priced accommodations," said Gorman, who rents a townhouse in Graduate Hospital with his wife, "and people start price gouging."

Reservation prices peaked in the days following the announcement that Pope Francis would make his first visit to the United States. The only vacancies left in Center City are letting for about $900 a night, nearly four times the normal cost.


Airbnb app / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"One of the nice things about Airbnb is you being able to pick the people who stay with you."
Gorman

TOMMY ROWAN
@tommyrowan
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Road to City Hall.
Mayor's race narrows as Clarke drops out

City Council President Darrell Clarke announced Monday that he won't run for mayor of Philadelphia, and instead will bid for a fifth term representing the 5th Councilmanic District.

"Being Mayor has never been my primary goal," Clarke said in a statement.

"During my years of public service, it has been my goal to secure opportunities for every resident of the 5th District and the City of Philadelphia. While we have made significant gains, there remains much to be done," he said.

Clarke listed schools, income inequality and affordable housing as his priorities in the council.

The 2015 candidates for mayor currently include state Sen. Anthony Williams, former DA Lynne Abraham, former city solicitor Ken Trujillo, former state Sen. Milton Street (brother of former mayor John Street), former judge and city solicitor Nelson Diaz, and PGW's VP of marketing, Doug Oliver.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Prison break

Inmate injures two in escape attempt

Justin Mackie, 20, attacked a nurse and a corrections officer Sunday in an escape attempt from Albert Einstein Medical Center. Mackie used a key to uncuff himself, prison officials said. Hospital security caught Mackie.

The nurse was treated and released. The correctional officer was hospitalized for head injuries. METRO

Hot afternoon in Strawberry Mansion

Firefighters put a one-alarm house fire on the 2600 block of North 31st Street in Strawberry Mansion on Monday afternoon. According to officials on scene no injuries were reported.

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Q&A: Philly's cold case specialist

Cold hearted.
Jack Maxwell talks Vidocq Society, cold cases and "The Boy in the Box."

Jack Maxwell / DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Over a 40-year career in law enforcement, Jack Maxwell spent a majority of his career on special investigations on both the state and federal level. For the past 20 years, he's sat on the board of the Vidocq Society, a club of detectives and forensic experts who meet monthly in Philadelphia to help solve cold cases from law enforcement departments from across the country. He's currently an assistant teaching professor of criminology and justice studies at Drexel University.

What is your role with the Vidocq Society?
I've probably been a member for at least 25 years. I'm on the executive board. I cannot say that I directly solved any of the cases over the years, but I feel as though myself and others have given some real good suggestions and advice that has led the investigating agency to have a successful conclusion one way or the other.

Do you get cases from the big cities like New York, Boston or Washington?
A lot of the departments are small. They have limited budgets. They are working through the crime lab [and] in their state and there is a waiting list.

What does the society do?
We make suggestions [on what should be done.] Sometimes our experts agree to review results, or help get evidence expedited, and once it's expedited maybe that leads to a successful conclusion or elimination or whatever. We can help move the investigations along. I've never seen the attendees at any particular meeting not have some good advice and suggestions for the presenters.

What cases stand out after 30 years?
The Boy in the Box. Officially it's not solved, but the Vidocq Society had a theory. Through the efforts of the gentleman who just passed away, Bill Kelly, who worked in a forensics lab at the time of the case, Philadelphia homicide had a theory on who did it. But there were some complications, legally. The person with the information, on the advice of their doctors and lawyers, asked not to go public, but we feel as if we know who did it. So technically it's solved, but it's still not solved.

What is it about cold cases that are so appealing to you on a personal level?
I created the cold case squad in Philadelphia Homicide when I was chief of detectives — mainly because of the Marie Noe case. She killed eight of her kids and she never was indicted until we got back involved and a writer for Philadelphia Magazine took an interest in the case. She ultimately confessed, but she got away. And so it's the basic idea that you're speaking for the dead. Speaking for those who can't help themselves.

Quoted

"You're speaking for the dead, speaking for those who can't help themselves."
Maxwell

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Weather

Thaw coming to Philly?

Meteorologists are seeing an influx of warming temperatures this week with no future rain or snowfall forecast.

Temperatures will warm over the week, said National Weather Service meteorologist Valeria Meola, from 30 degrees Tuesday gradually ascending each day, except a dip on Friday, to reach the mid to high 40s on Saturday, Sunday, and Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day.

"It warms up for the weekend," Meola said.

METRO

It could get warmer.
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Memorial celebrates life of firefighter Lt. Joyce Craig

Honor. Family, colleagues remember Craig fondly at City Hall.

Lt. Joyce Craig, the first female Philadelphia firefighter to die in the line of duty was honored at a City Hall memorial service Monday. Craig died while battling a house fire on West Oak Lane last month.

"Our family was far from the only one who suffered a loss here," said Lt. Craig's brother, Michael Craig.

Craig, 33, said that since the Dec. 9 fire that claimed his sister's life, he has heard countless stories about her heroism and how much she meant to the community.

"I would never have thought that I would get to know my sister even more after she was gone," he said.

Philadelphia Fire Department Lt. Joyce Craig / COURTESY OF THE CRAIG FAMILY

Quoted

"She didn't shy away from anything that was asked of her. Joyce loved her job."

Lt. Diane Mercer

Mayor Michael Nutter and Philadelphia Fire Department Deputy Commissioner Jesse Wilson officially presented the city flag to Mekhi Green, 16, Craig's son, during the ceremony.

Craig's infant daughter Laylani Lewis was also present at the ceremony.

"As one of the small group of female firefighters, she helped show us all that women are capable of doing this job every bit as well as a man," said Joe Schulle, president of IAFF Local 22, noting that less than five percent of the city's firefighters are women.

Mayor Michael Nutter recalled the story that Craig wanted to become a firefighter after seeing one when she was a little girl.

"Joyce may have seen one of you many, many years ago, and said, 'That's what I want to do,'" Nutter told the room full of firefighters. "You do not know that you may be inspiring the next Joyce Craig."

Craig was a firefighter for 11 years. She served with Engine 9, Engine 45, Ladder 21 and was assigned to Engine 64 at the time of her death.

The Fire Marshal's investigation into the cause of the fire that killed Lt. Craig is ongoing, said Executive Fire Chief Clifford Gilliam.

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Military Twitter feed hacked by ISIS sympathizers

A screen grab from the U.S. Central Command Twitter page. / U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND TWITTER

Spokesman. Steve Warren said the Defense Department "views this as little more than a prank, or as vandalism."

The Twitter feed and YouTube account for the U.S. military command that oversees operations in the Middle East was hacked on Monday by people claiming to be sympathetic toward the Islamic State militant group being targeted in American bombing raids.

Officials said the U.S. Central Command Twitter account and its YouTube account were suspended after being compromised.

The White House said it was monitoring the extent of the hacking incident.

Two U.S. defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the hacking was an embarrassment but that the images posted by the hackers did not appear to include classified information or pose a security threat.

"In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, the CyberCaliphate continues its CyberJihad," the Central Command Twitter feed said after being hacked.

The Twitter feed had several messages from hackers, including one telling American soldiers to "watch your back," and the YouTube account had two videos that appeared to be linked to Islamic State.

Islamic State has taken control of parts of Syria and Iraq. The group's forces have been targeted in ongoing air strikes by the United States and international partners.

The Twitter account published a list of generals and addresses associated with them, titled "Army General Officer Public Roster (by rank) 2 January 2014."

Subsequent posts read, "Pentagon Networks Hacked! China Scenarios" and "Pentagon Networks Hacked. Korean Scenarios."

"We can confirm that the CENTCOM Twitter and YouTube accounts were compromised earlier today. We are taking appropriate measures to address the matter," Central Command said in a statement. REUTERS

Quoted

"It's inconvenient, it's an annoyance but in no way is any sensitive or classified information compromised."
Army Colonel Steve Warren
told a press briefing

Released

Review of the documents

Reuters reviewed some of the documents released by the hackers but could not immediately identify any that appeared to contain information that compromised national security.

Some could easily be found using Google searches, including the Department of Defense's "Estimated Impacts of Sequestration-Level Funding," which is available on a public government website.

Another budget document, "Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System" is a March 2014 document available on the website of the defense department's comptroller. Another is a draft version of the 2015 appropriations bill for the Defense Department. REUTERS

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Trafficking. Former child slave marks 10 years of saving children

When he was 6 years old, James Kofi Annan was forced to fish for hours on end on Lake Volta in Ghana. Now, at 41, Annan has spent the past 10 years helping child slaves transition back into mainstream society, and received the education of which they've been deprived.

Annan, who escaped from captivity at age 13 and returned home, says education was his way to overcome the horrors of human trafficking.

After receiving his university degree, Annan worked his way to becoming a bank manager for Barclays Bank of Ghana. He eventually left that position to start his organization, Challenging Heights, which helps other children escape from slavery.

Challenging Heights, which turns 10 next month, runs a school for former child slaves and disadvantaged children, and a rehabilitation center for trafficking survivors. Since 2005, his organization has rescued 1,200 former child slaves.

Annan said when his organization receives reports of trafficked children, a team of investigators goes to confirm and identify the victims.

"Once we have identified them, we team up with the government agencies such as the police and the department of social welfare. The child is then taken away from the trafficker. In a number of cases this is done peacefully, but in other times this is met with violence," Annan said.

Annan, who received the World Children's Prize in 2013, was recently in the United States to receive an honorary doctorate at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He's not named after the former secretary general of the United Nations, and says the name is common in central Ghana, his home region.

Annan, who now spends most of his time traveling the world raising awareness for human trafficking, says he loves going back to the school a few days each month and spending time with the children he helped save, and who are now helping to save themselves.

According to the U.S. Department of State's 2014 "Trafficking in Persons Report," the Ghanaian government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." Trafficking of children to forced labor, including fishing, domestic service, street hawking, begging, mining, agriculture and prostitution, is more common than migrant trafficking, the report shows.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE, METRO

Annan said although trafficking is a very big problem for Ghana — and countries around the world — communication has helped some children and families report incidents and get help. / ANNE L. GEISSINGER

Quoted

"The No. 1 solution is if we're able to get every child in school empowered with skills, they will be able to resist trafficking themselves, and help themselves in the future. That's what made me who I am." Annan

Child slaves

24K

There are an estimated 24,000 child slaves in Ghana, Annan said, though the exact number is hard to determine.

Baga

Nigeria's military says 150 killed in Boko Haram clashes

Nigeria's military said on Monday that at least 150 people had been killed in clashes with Islamists in the northeastern town of Baga, giving a rare official death toll a few weeks before presidential elections in which security is a big issue.

Defense spokesman Major-General Chris Olukolade was reacting to reports that some 2,000 had been killed by Boko Haram insurgents who took control of Baga and the surrounding area 10 days ago. The military is fighting to reclaim it.

Scores of civilians were killed when the militants, who are fighting to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, raided Baga and a nearby military base. REUTERS

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Safety. EU rejects hasty security response to Paris terrorist attack

The European Union wants governments and security forces to work more closely together to counter threats of violence like that in Paris last week, but cautioned on Monday against a hasty response.

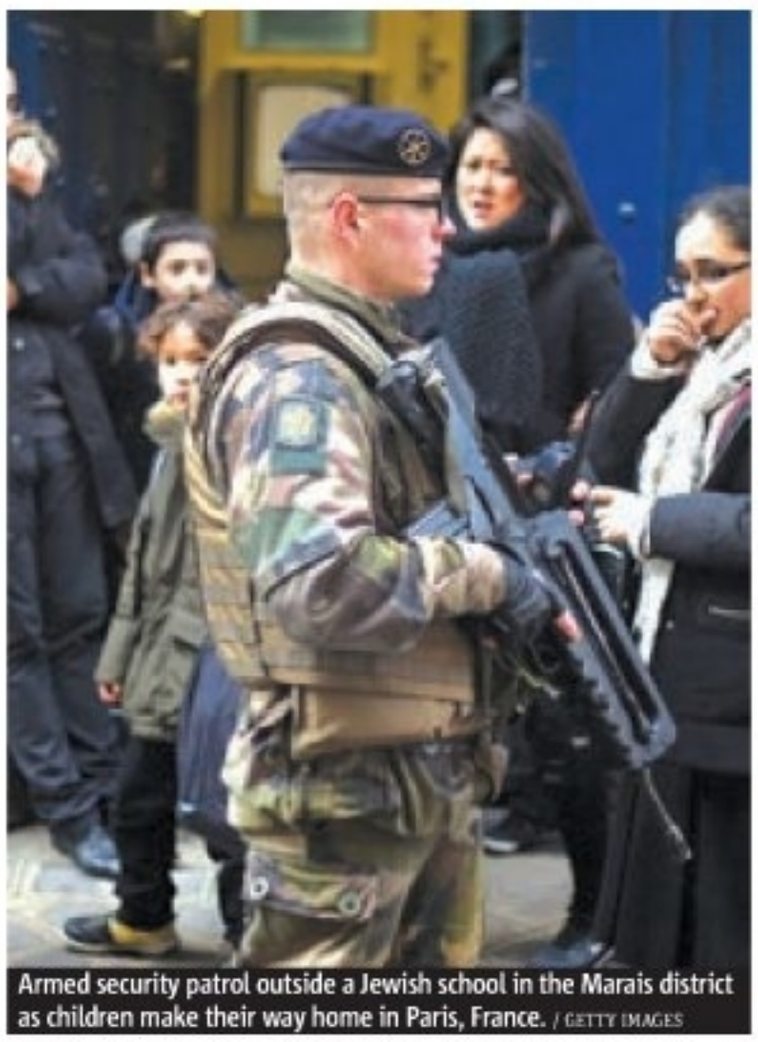
Hungary's prime minister called for Europe to close its doors to immigration and E.U. ministers agreed to consider changing passport-free travel rules. The bloc's executive said enhancements to counter-terrorism cooperation were already in the works and called for urgent consultations on what further improvements can be made.

Quoting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, a spokeswoman told a news briefing in Brussels on Monday that it was "first time for silence before action." She added: "Our actions should be grounded not in fear but on reflection."

Latvia, which holds the rotating chair of E.U. ministerial meetings, withdrew a suggestion for an urgent session this week of interior and justice ministers. It said it would now focus on preparing a meeting already scheduled for the end of this month that would make proposals to an E.U. leaders' summit on Feb. 12-13.

Juncker called last week for closer cooperation among national authorities, which control their own security with the E.U. limited to playing a coordinating role and maintaining a watch over states' legal obligations to respect human rights. REUTERS

France brings in 10,000 troops after massacre


Armed security patrol outside a Jewish school in the Marais district as children make their way home in Paris, France. / GETTY IMAGES

France. The country has the European Union's largest Muslim and Jewish communities.

France will deploy 10,000 soldiers on home soil by Tuesday and post almost 5,000 extra police officers to protect Jewish sites after the killing of 17 people by Islamist militants in Paris last week, officials said.

"The threats remain and we have to protect ourselves from them. It is an internal operation that will mobilize almost as many men as we have in our overseas operations," Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

"We will not give in. The spirit of 'I am Charlie' means the right to blaspheme," he said, adding that the front page of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo would be released on Monday evening.

"Synagogues, Jewish schools, but also mosques will be protected because in the past few days there have been a number of attacks against mosques," Prime Minister Manuel Valls told BFM TV.

The French Justice Ministry said gunman Cherif Kouachi had made the journey to Yemen even though he had been banned from leaving France at the time. REUTERS

Jewish school

717

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said 4,700 police officers would be placed at all 717 Jewish schools across the country in addition to some 4,100 gendarmes already deployed.

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Sources. Facebook, Xiaomi discussed possible investment in the Chinese smartphone maker

Mark Zuckerberg and Xiaomi Inc., CEO Lei Jun discussed a potential investment by Facebook in China's top smartphone maker ahead of its $1.1 billion fund raising last month, but a deal never materialized, several people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The discussions, at a private dinner when Zuckerberg visited Beijing in October, were never formalized, three of those people said, as the two CEOs weighed the political and commercial implications of Facebook — which has been banned in China since 2009 — buying into the Chinese tech star now valued at $45 billion.

A Facebook investment in Xiaomi would have raised the international profile of the popular handset maker dubbed "China's Apple" by its fans and linked it to a U.S. social networking phenomenon with more than 1.3 billion users.

Lei Jun and Mark Zuckerberg / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Facebook wants to get into China, and Xiaomi is keen to expand outside, so they both recognize the importance of working together."

said one of the individuals, none of whom wanted to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Facebook has long harbored ambitions to expand into the world's most populous country, potentially with partners. One of the individuals said Facebook and Xiaomi began discussing a possible investment in mid-2014.

Xiaomi's Lei was partly put off by the potential for political fallout at home of selling a stake to Facebook while the social network is still banned in China, two of the people said, adding Xiaomi also feared a tie-up with Facebook could threaten its relationship with Google Inc., a crucial business partner. Xiaomi's phones are built on Google's Android operating system.

Xiaomi ultimately announced last month it raised $1.1 billion from investors including Hong Kong-based tech fund All Stars Investment; DST Global, a private equity firm that has invested in Facebook and Alibaba Group; Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC; Chinese fund Hopu Management; and Alibaba founder Jack Ma's Yunfeng Capital. REUTERS

Xiaomi

$45B

The Beijing-based Xiaomi is valued at $45 billion just three years after it sold its first smartphone.

$12B

Xiaomi had revenues of close to $12 billion in 2014.

Patch

Microsoft, Google tangle over security

Microsoft Corp., has complained publicly about tech rival Google Inc., revealing a security flaw in its Windows 8.1 system just days before Microsoft was scheduled to roll out a fix for the problem, potentially exposing users to hacking.

The spat highlights an ever-present tension in the software security sector between those who believe flaws should be revealed sooner rather than later.

In this case, Google is in the former camp, through its "Project Zero" team, which scans all types of software for bugs and reports problems privately to the developers who created them. Google gives developers 90 days to fix a problem before making the issue public.

That happened on Sunday, when Google posted a security bulletin concerning weaknesses in the user profile creation process in Windows 8.1, which could allow hackers to take control of a computer. Google had initially told Microsoft about the problem on Oct. 13.

Microsoft plans to publish a fix this week as part of its regular security update, known in the industry as "Patch Tuesday."

"We asked Google to work with us to protect customers by withholding details until Tuesday, Jan. 13, when we will be releasing a fix," Microsoft executive Chris Betz wrote in a blog on the company's site on Sunday.

"Although following through keeps to Google's announced timeline for disclosure, the decision feels less like principles and more like a 'gotcha,' with customers the ones who may suffer as a result." REUTERS

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Using your job to enhance your college career

Life after school. The right position can provide more than extra cash.

Student employees have plenty of opportunities to receive feedback and guidance. / ISTOCK

Not many college students can say that they were paid to talk about beer throughout college, but that's exactly what Liz Wessel did while at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I was the Anheuser Busch rep on campus,' Wessel explains. "I considered my job a supplement to my education."

It was during her time at Penn that Wessel and classmate J.J. Fliegelman decided to create a site exclusively geared toward students looking for jobs as campus reps. After graduation, the pair decided to create a firm that would connect students with such companies.

Wessel was working in India for Google when she and Fliegelman decided to launch their new company Campus Job - which connects companies with interested student workers. In addition to listings for more conventional college students positions at coffee shops, it also recruits for larger companies as well. Her work experience as a campus rep provided much of the inspiration behind the website, she says.

"I still had no idea what I wanted to do [while I was in college]," recalls Wessel, a political science "It was actually my part-time job that led me to realize 'Wow, I like marketing.'"

We talked to Wessel about how students can build their skills off-campus.

Become a better public speaker

"For my job I had to visit fraternities and sororities to talk about products and also promote the engineering jobs at Anheuser Busch. I had never gone in front of hundreds of peers to do something like that," says Wessel.

Many of the jobs listed on the site require employees to be comfortable speaking in front of large groups, she notes.

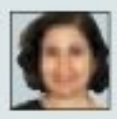
Develop connections

"A lot of students also don't know that companies like Microsoft have campus reps...," says Wessel. "Also, typically if an employer wants to hire a student, they want to give them feedback, so it's a chance to grow and build relationships."

Branching out

Explore new fields

Wessel advises students use their part-time positions to gain skills outside their courses of study. "We did an analysis of recent grads and the majority of students said their majors had nothing to do with their jobs," she notes. "We talked to a pre-med student who wanted to look for a job in marketing because they thought, 'Let me try out a new field. Let me gain new skills.'"



LAKSHMI GANDHI
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lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Most online MBA students are currently working full time. / ISTOCK

Online degrees. Temple University's online MBA program takes top spot in new rankings

Temple University's online MBA program has just tied for the top spot in "U.S. News and World Report"'s latest rankings.

The Fox School of Business shares the number one spot with Indiana University and the University of North Carolina.

According to the magazine, Temple's online MBA received a perfect score when judged on categories that include faculty and student services.

In a statement, Fox School Dean M. Moshe Porat said the school would "continue to deliver the best advancements in technology to a quality, online-format education."

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Third of Americans are broke after paying bills

Budget. According to a new poll, one in three people lives paycheck-to-paycheck and is unable to save.

Many Americans can only save nickels and dimes after paying the expenses of day-to-day living. / ISTOCK

Saving more money is a New Year's resolution for many, but according to a new poll conducted by GoBankingRates.com, 37 percent of Americans say they are too broke to do so. So if you're stuck living paycheck-to-paycheck and unable to contribute to a 401K or build an emergency fund, just know that one in three people is in the same boat.

For those whose goal is to save more this year, most say they don't want the money for an exotic vacation or upgrading to a bigger apartment. They just want to have enough money to keep them afloat during emergencies, with the long-term goal of saving for retirement.

Emergencies can pop up any time, whether it's a medical bill or unexpected travel, and it can take just one unplanned expense to get set back financially. So it's not surprising that having the means to cover life's surprises is No. 1 on people's list.

According to the poll, 77 percent of people expect to face obstacles to attaining their goal of having enough money for an emergency fund, while 24 percent are "extremely confident" they will be able to do it. The poll also found a stark gender divide: Women are more likely to list insufficient income and unemployment as their biggest obstacles to saving, while men are more likely to report poor money management.

For more of the survey's findings, visit GoBankingRates.com.

Stat

77%

Percentage of people expecting to face obstacles attaining their goal of establishing an emergency fund

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Paid biweekly? You get paid extra this year

More money. 2015 is a "payroll leap year."

If you are an employee who is paid every two weeks, you may be in for a nice surprise this year. For many employees, 2015 is a pay period leap year, meaning that there are 27 pay periods during the 52-week calendar year instead of the usual 26. This quirk happens about every 11 years.

Some employers will be paying that 27th paycheck on top of regular salary, resulting in about a 4 percent annual raise, while others will redistribute the set salary among 27 checks. "It all depends what's in your employment contract," says Debby Salam, director of payroll information management at Ernst & Young.

Benefits also need to be redistributed and employees need to pay attention to the tax and retirement consequences to getting an unplanned cash infusion, it is not really a bonus. Those who have any biweekly payments — on mortgages or car loans, for example — should check to see if they will owe an extra payment.

The math behind this quirk is fairly simple: 26 pay periods only account for 364 days each year. The 365th days add up to a whole pay period over time, depending on what day you get paid and national holidays. For employees who are paid weekly, an extra check comes every five or six years. Pay schedules reset back to normal the following year.

"It's not that you're getting a bonus, you did work the extra time," says Doug Hass, a labor and employment law attorney for Franczek Radelet.

For employees paid on Fridays, 2015 is a prime year since Jan. 1, 2016, falls on payday of what would be the last pay period in the year, so checks would presumably go out on Dec. 31. Employees who typically make $60,000 would make $62,307 after their 27th check.

You can get your paycheck schedule and details of your company's plan for payment from your human resources department, Hass says.

REUTERS

By the numbers

27

Number of paychecks you'll receive this year if you get paid biweekly.

THIS "PAYROLL LEAP YEAR" ONLY OCCURS EVERY 11 YEARS, SO ENJOY THAT EXTRA DINERO.

ISTOCK

New survey

Millennials will quit if they don't get a raise

According to a new survey conducted by Glassdoor.com, 35 percent of workers say they'll quit if they don't get a raise this year with millennials making less than $55,000 the most likely to leave.

But the trend isn't just with those who have only been in the workforce for a few years. Thirty-six percent of workers ages 35 to 44 say they'll quit if they don't get a bump in pay. And if you think it's just people with low to mid-range salary levels it isn't. Thirty-one percent of survey takers who make more than $100,000 a year will walk if they don't get a bigger paycheck this year.

Of the 900 people who took the survey, most said they expect to get between a 3 percent and 5 percent increase in pay. EMILY LAURENCE

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Conan O'Brien is spreading the good news, Mindy Kaling is keeping you updated, Kelly Clarkson is a fan of her own work, Jamie Bell has some recommendations for you and Kevin Nealon has a valid question.

@ConanOBrien: Same-sex couples can now get married in Florida, and are pledging "Til Meth Do Us Part."

@mindykaling: Curious where I have been these past few hours? In my room, writing a script & tending to a dog bite I got on my hand

@kelly_clarkson: Holy cow I didn't even know my song would be up on iTunes already!! I just bought it haha!

@1jamiebell: Have you seen that YouTube video where those old ladies watch the Kardashian sex tape?

@kevin_nealon: Seriously, how can you tell if someone makes a mistake when playing jazz?

1

J.K. Rowling and the mocking Rupert Murdoch tweet

If social media is good for anything, it offers a fantastic platform for witty comebacks. J.K. Rowling used it for just such a purpose after Rupert Murdoch riled folks with his Charlie Hedbo-related tweet, insisting all Muslims need to be held accountable for the actions of the men behind last week's attack in Paris. Instead of just shouting back, Rowling turned Murdoch's own twisted logic against him, posting "I was born Christian. If that makes Rupert Murdoch my responsibility, I'll auto-excommunicate." And folks in the Twitterverse seemed to agree with her, as her tweet quickly earned more than 20,000 favorites, compared to Murdoch's 3,000.

J.K. Rowling
I was born Christian. If that makes Rupert Murdoch my responsibility, I'll auto-excommunicate. ow.ly/H7Eps
The Guardian
Murdoch says Muslims must be held responsible for France terror...
News Corp boss tweets to say even peaceful Muslims must bear burden of deadly Charlie Hebdo death toll 'until they destroy growing jihadist cancer'
View on web

@JK_ROWLING / TWITTER

2

Harry Styles dating a Victoria's Secret model because obviously

One Direction's Harry Styles, has earned himself another celebrity merit badge, this time for Victoria's Secret model-dating. Nice work, Styles! The floppy-haired crooner has reportedly been getting quite cozy with the awesomely named Nadine Leopold. "Harry has been getting more serious with Nadine," a source tells Us Weekly, adding that the pair are "spending lots of time together" lately. But another source insists we shouldn't read too much into their quality time. "Harry is having a good time being a young rock star," the second source says. "You will know he has a girlfriend when he steps out on the red carpet with one. Until then, he's having fun and enjoying life." Guess they've told us. Still, congratulations?

Styles, on the red carpet. / GETTY IMAGES

3

Chris Brown concert ends in gunfire

A recent Chris Brown show in San Diego ended in chaos after gunfire rang out at Fiesta nightclub while the embattled singer was on stage, according to TMZ. Video from the gig shows Brown noticing a scuffle and making light of it before shots were fired. Law enforcement sources say five people were wounded in the incident, though no suspects have been named. Brown, no stranger to gunfire at his events, didn't seem that bothered by it. He even shared a Vine of the moment of panic on his official account. My, how quickly that smile fades.

Brown at a different concert, depicting what he probably did when gunshots rang out.
GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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Daily video

TEAM COCO / YOUTUBE

It's good to have Liam Neeson on your side

While visiting "Conan," Maggie Grace revealed one of the cooler benefits of co-starring with Liam Neeson in the "Taken" films: He'll call your ex-boyfriends and threaten them. "He's like the best fake movie dad any girl could ask for. He's so protective — in real life, too," Grace explains. She even brought an audio clip of Neeson, in character as his "Taken" alter ego, chastising the unnamed ex and threatening bodily harm. Isn't he the sweetest?

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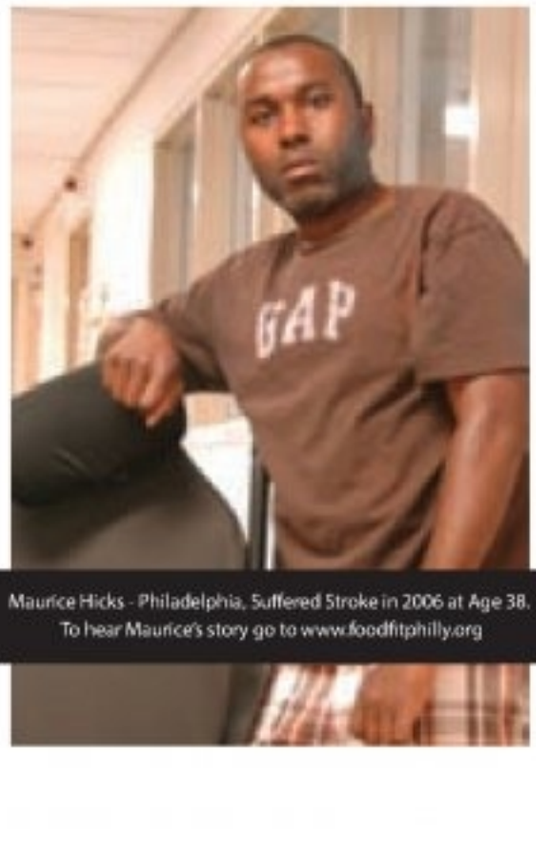

5 Things we'll miss about 'Parks and Recreation'

Tonight marks the beginning of our farewell to Leslie Knope and her colleagues on "Parks and Recreation." Perpetually low on ratings, the show nevertheless found a devoted audience who love its optimistic humor and thoughtfully crafted town. Here's what we'll miss most. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

AMY POEHLER'S LESLIE KNOPE GREW INTO A LOVABLE CHARACTER.

Leslie Knope herself

At its best, "Parks and Recreation" found great ways to translate Amy Poehler's high energy into a character both hugely dorky and inspirational. Sure, she went overboard in every facet of her life, but Leslie was the rare comedic creation whose personality made everyone root for her.

The town of Pawnee, Indiana

We may not have known much about humble Pawnee at the beginning of the show's run, but we've all grown to love the residents of the town (which is, as you may recall, "first in friendship, fourth in obesity"). And who hasn't enjoyed learning about the colorful Pawnee city mottos? There was the time it got taken over by the cult of Zorp, or the time it claimed to be the birthplace of Julia Roberts, then got sued for it. Mostly, we'll miss the town's historical murals, each of which is more offensive than the last.

Say goodbye to the staff of "Parks and Recreation."
ALL PHOTOS BY NBC

Co-workers who like each other

The cubicle drones of "The Office" often seemed to be living in a state of barely concealed distaste for each other, but "Parks and Recreation" has generally gone in the opposite direction — with the exception of poor Jerry. Or Gary. Or possibly Barry, by this point. As different as the various Parks department employees are, they were always supportive of each other's endeavors, from Donna investing in the Snakehole Lounge with Tom to the way everyone pulled together for Leslie's ill-fated campaign for city councilwoman.

The couples

Remember when April and Andy got married on a whim, only a few episodes after starting to date? No one would have guessed those two would have the most stable relationship on the show, but the writers always found cute, funny ways to make them work despite Andy's cluelessness and April's hatred of, well, everything. And while we're happy Ron found love with Lucy Lawless's Diane, we're sad we won't get to see any new adventures between Ron and Tammy, because Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally bring just the right amount of crazy.

Its always warm heart

"Parks and Recreation" has gotten a lot of credit over the years for the warmth of its humor. The show makes you laugh at the antics of its sometimes crazy characters, but never sneers at them or asks viewers to mock them. Sure, we knew most of Tom's business schemes were doomed to failure, but he's now started a few successful ones, and no one on the show treats him like he's a fool for dreaming of a life beyond Pawnee. And as outlandish as Leslie's behavior got sometimes, the people around her always loved her for it.

Television. CBS sets premiere for 'Colbert' show

CBS had its turn at the Television Critics Association press tour on Monday, and CBS entertainment chairwoman Nina Tassler used the opportunity to talk up the success of the network's new hits. "NCIS: New Orleans," "Madam Secretary" and "Scorpion" have all been renewed, while "Stalker" is a contender, though nothing is official yet, she said.

Tassler also announced that Sept. 8 would be the premiere of "Late Show with Stephen Colbert." As to what viewers can expect from the show, Tassler says "[Colbert] knows that is introducing himself, the real Stephen Colbert, to his audience."

The day also featured a panel from the stars of the upcoming "Odd Couple" remake, Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon. The show comes from Garry Marshall, who called Perry his favorite Friend, but admitted that "Tom Lennon, I didn't know from Adam." Guess he's not a "Reno 911!" fan. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

"In real life, I'm much more of an Oscar [than neat freak Felix]," says Perry. / CBS

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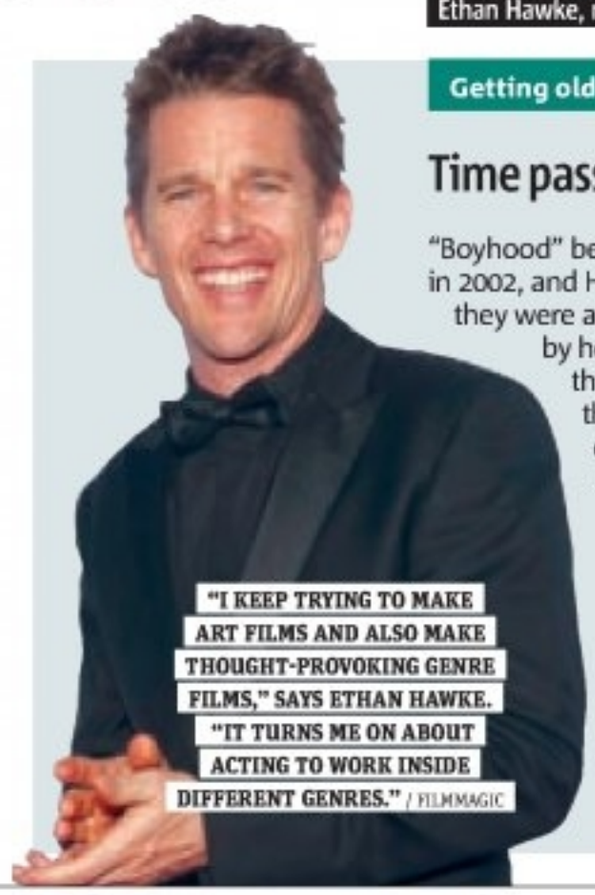
Ethan Hawke on his new film and 'Boyhood'

Ethan Hawke, right (with Sarah Snook), plays a time-traveling agent in "Predestination." / SONY PICTURES

Interview. The new 'Predestination,' the actor says, isn't that different from his big Golden Globe winner.

"Predestination," in which you play an agent who can time travel, is a thriller, but one with a lot of heady ideas.
When someone can use science fiction to make you think, it's a neat trick. If you embark on a philosophical discussion, people start to yawn. They feel like they're in college in a way they don't like, because it can be pretentious. But when you do it with science fiction, you can provoke thought in a really fun way. That's what I like about this movie. I knew when I read the script that, if we do this without screwing it up, it would be like a good Zen koan: it sends you thinking.

One could make the case that some of the ideas here are ones touched on "Boyhood."
It's really funny to me. "Boyhood" premiered at Sundance and a couple weeks later, "Predestination" and "Boyhood" both showed up at South by Southwest. I really did feel I had two time-travel movies at the same time. You really could make a case that the whole "Before" trilogy and "Boyhood" are time-travel movies too. You're visiting yourself at different times, which is what all of these movies are about — one in a very uber-sci-fi way. It's something we all long to do. The future scares us so much and we romanticize the past so much that it creates a cool energy.


"I KEEP TRYING TO MAKE ART FILMS AND ALSO MAKE THOUGHT-PROVOKING GENRE FILMS," SAYS ETHAN HAWKE. "IT TURNS ME ON ABOUT ACTING TO WORK INSIDE DIFFERENT GENRES." / FILMMAGIC

Getting old

Time passing

"Boyhood" began shooting in 2002, and Hawke said they were all shocked by how little the look of the world changed over 12 years. "If you had done a movie from '58 to '70, the look of the world was a lot different. The way people dressed, the way cars looked, the energy of the environment was a lot different. But 'Boyhood' looks basically the same," he says. "I think that's because the biggest movement for us has been technology. The way you dress and the way I look, we wouldn't look out of place 12 years ago. It's the phones, the computer, the Internet. So much of our energy has been diving toward the Internet. We haven't had the need for culture to change in other ways."

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(But, remember, he wasn't always an old ugly man - once, he was just ugly)

Guster has something to say

Alt-rock. Twenty years later, the band is still going strong.

Two decades since the release of their first album, Ryan Miller of Guster tells us how the band has managed to keep their fans interested, what we can expect from their new album and keeping busy with his other music career, scoring films.

Guster's seventh album, "Evermotion" is out today. / ZOE-RUTH ERWIN

What goes into the decision to sign up for another album and tour when you guys have been doing it for so long?
We just wait and make sure we have something to say. We take a hard look and see what songs we want to write and if we can all point our agendas in the same direction. We all have kids and there's stuff going on at home. It took us a while to figure out what sort of record we wanted to make and make sure that everything on it is good. But this is the seventh album in 20-something years, so it's kind of on pace for us even if it's a slower pace compared to a lot of bands.

A lot of new musicians feel they have to crank out an album every year to keep their fans, but your fans just keep coming back despite these time gaps.
Our timing has never been marketing driven. It's always driven artistically and when we felt like we had something to say, we would say it. We'd rather make great records that can stand the test of time than a bunch of records that don't.

What can fans expect from the new album, "Evermotion"?
I'm really, really proud of this record. I think it sounds contemporary and still sounds like our band. ... We think people who know us from the olden days are going to be supportive and people who appreciate the fact that we've grown and changed on every record we've done are going to be rewarded for sticking with us.

In his off time...

On scoring films

When Miller isn't focusing on Guster, he scores films, most notably "Safety Not Guaranteed" and "In A World..."

How did you get into film scoring?
It just came out of the idea that I wasn't going to be on a tour bus nine months a year anymore. I was trying to figure out a way to stay creative and in an industry I thought was exciting.

Do you need to have your hands in multiple creative outlets to feel fulfilled?
Yeah. ... The main difference between scoring films and being in a band is that in the band, I'm the loudest voice in the room. On a film, I'm really just a craftsman and there to implement the vision of the director or producer.

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Reading

'The Last American Vampire'

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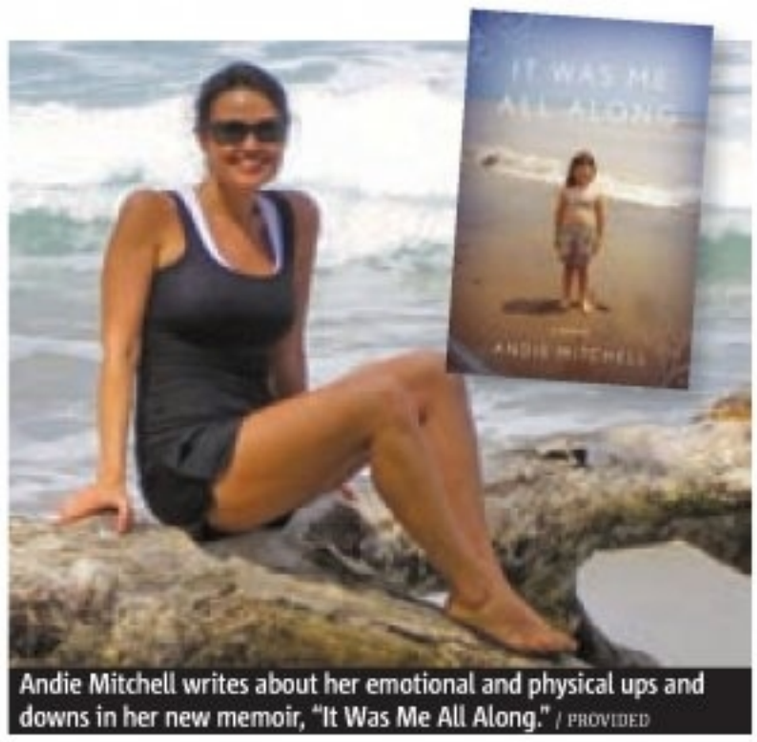
Alternative-history author Seth Grahame-Smith is on tour for his latest novel, "The Last American Vampire Hunter," a follow up to The New York Times bestseller "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter." (He also wrote "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies.") His newest expands the alt-history universe of "Abraham Lincoln," detailing the continued story of an America shared — uneasily, of course — by the living and the undead, right up to the present day.

'Thinness doesn't bring happiness'

Memoir. For 20-something Andie Mitchell, losing 135 pounds brought anxiety, not contentment.



Andie Mitchell writes about her emotional and physical ups and downs in her new memoir, "It Was Me All Along." / PROVIDED

Stepping on the scale on her twentieth birthday and reading 268 was a wake-up call for Boston-born, New York transplant Andie Mitchell. She feared how far the scale would tip if she didn't change her eating habits, and what it would mean for her life.

Mitchell set herself a goal of losing 128 pounds, which she not only did, but surpassed. But her new outward appearance only masked new troubles which she reveals in her candid memoir, "It Was Me All Along."

Going out to eat was a lose-lose battle

"I remember getting a salad and someone said, 'it must be boring eating salads all the time.' So there was this feeling that people thought I was constantly dieting and I had to do it forever," she says. "On the other side of it, if I got a piece of pizza, people made comments like, 'you better be careful!'"

'Italy changed my perspective about food'

It was studying abroad in Italy that helped Mitchell learn what it meant to eat mindfully. "In Italy, food is so revered that you get the feeling that mealtime is really special." She focused on eating small portions of meaningful meals.

Turning heads

'I felt sad by the attention'

Being thin for the first time brought a lot of new attention, both from strangers and friends. "I was suddenly noticed by a lot more people and they seemed kinder in a way," she tells us. "But I couldn't help but feel a little bit sad by the attention, that my [thinness] determined my worth as a person.

'I mourned turning to food for comfort'

Still, her mind-set didn't change overnight. "I mourned turning to food for comfort and being able to eat whatever I wanted," she says. Depressed, Mitchell got the help of a therapist, which she says was invaluable to developing a healthy relationship with food. "It was a process of self discovery and understanding that I'm not going to be able to turn to food every time I feel discomfort."

Now, Mitchell says she's struck a happy balance, eating healthy most of the time, but going out to eat with friends on the weekend and not thinking too much about it. "It took me years to get here, but I'm comfortable in my own skin. … [This journey] has taught me that thinness is never going to be the answer. Life is going to throw so much at you. But I feel stronger. I'm more accepting of myself, and more accepting of everyone else's troubles, too."

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Representing black history through art

Painting. A new PMA exhibit looks at art from slavery through today.

"The Libraries are Appreciated," painted in 1943 by Jacob Lawrence.
THE JACOB AND GWENDOLYN LAWRENCE FOUNDATION, SEATTLE / ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK

When the Philadelphia Museum of Art purchased Henry Ossawa Tanner's "Annunication" in 1899, it became the first work by an African-American artist to be acquired by a major U.S. museum. The PMA's collection of African-American art has since grown to nearly 800 pieces, a selection of which makes up "Represent: 200 Years of African American Art," now open.

The exhibit, which features works by more than 50 artists, grew out of the museum's efforts to create a catalogue of its collection. Museum director and CEO Timothy Rub credited that initiative largely to the museum's African American Collections Committee, formed more than two decades ago. "It's always been one of the most cherished wishes of the members of that committee that we make this material more publicly accessible," Rub said during a tour of the exhibit. "It was a labor of love."

The resulting catalogue highlights more than 160 pieces from the museum's collection, offering a broad overview of the range of its holdings by African-American artists. That selection was further pared down to create "Represent," which traces a timeline from pre-Civil War pieces of fine and decorative art, through the Harlem Renaissance and the abstractions of the 1960s, to provocative work by contemporary artists like Kara Walker and Glenn Ligon.

The catalogue was largely the work of consulting curator Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw, who explained the show's title arising from the many meanings that the word "represent" contains.

"In colloquial terms, 'represent' has come to mean to stand for something, to represent anything that's come before you, your community and the way that you want to be shown to the world," DuBois Shaw said. "This exhibition and catalogue really do that; they represent the collection to Philadelphia and the world, and show the diversity of approaches that black artists have taken to being creative and to the responsibility of representing themselves and their communities."

SHAUN BRADY
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Context

In the collection

The exhibit includes the large storage jar created by enslaved potter David Drake, whose inscription of the date and his name flies in the face of prohibitions on literacy for slaves; Horace Pippin's haunting "The End of the War," recalling his own service in World War I; Barbara Chase-Riboud's monumental bronze and fiber dedication to Malcolm X; and Walker's series of provocative prints tracing the tragic legacy of the slave trade.

"Opportunities like this are ways of not only sharing our collection but putting works of art in conversation with each other in new ways," Rub said. "These new conversations are always interesting and surprising, and enrich our understanding of individual works of art and the context from which they arise. And this...is a very rich and interesting historical narrative."

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LUKE O'NEIL

While one could make the case that there's technically no bad time to travel to Key West, a winter week of freezing temps provides an ideal opportunity to experience the Florida island.

The bounties of the island are certainly not a secret, but somehow it manages to both defy and reaffirm its reputation as an oasis of bacchanalia, with an assist from history, culinary revelations and natural wonders.

Here are some things to put on your itinerary when planning your Key West getaway.

FURY WATER ADVENTURES./ MIKE FREAS (INSET)

Where to have an adventure on the water

Fury Water Adventures has a breadth of options for getting out on the water and staying active, including glass-bottom boat tours, parasailing and jet-skiing. A snorkeling adventure out along the coral reef provides beautiful vistas under the sea, and plenty of exercise swimming - away from barracudas and jelly fish. For a more relaxing voyage, take a trip on the Schooner Hindu for a breathtaking sunset sail.

PLUS

Parrothead

Where to stroll

Duval Street is Key West's main commercial street. You'll find booming open-air clubs, tattoo shops, art galleries, sausage stands, dudes with parrots on their heads, touristy bric-a-brac, cigar shops, Darth Vader playing a banjo, karaoke, drag shows, jazz bars and more art galleries.

MARRERO PHOTOGRAPHY

Where to drink cocktails

While there are plenty of fine restaurants on the island, the drinking culture skews toward beer and frozen drinks. One glaring, and brilliant, exception is The Other Side. Taking up one side of a centuries-old residence (so haunted they used to run ghost tours in it), this is the cutting edge of Key West's cocktail scene, perfect for urbanites needing a respite from all of the beach life transpiring outside.

It's dimly lit, with a throwback, hip-hop soundtrack, and bartenders mixing both the respected classics and showmanship-style recipes. After drinks, walk up Duvall Street for refined cuisine at Nine One Five.

Where to drink like a local

You'll find no shortage of bars across the island filled with sunburnt revelers and aggressively relaxed locals, many of whom have turned the music of Jimmy Buffet into a lifestyle, and plenty of disposable tourist trap bars. But for local character, the Green Parrot is your best bet. The late-19th century building, once a grocery, then a naval bar, offers a panoply of beach bums, hippies and seamen that come to mind when thinking of Key West. People drink outside and smoke inside, all while dancing unselfconsciously to feel-good bands.

Where to stay

Owing to strict laws about where new construction can take place on an island already overflowing with hotels, resorts and bars, the Marker Waterfront Resort is the first new hotel built in Old Town Key West in 20 years. The 96-room luxury hotel, situated just off the crowded boardwalk along the marina, brings together a sophisticated Caribbean-style feel with a modern design replete with a bounty of local artists' works.

The low season rates start at $229; the high season is $449.

CARMEL BRANTLEY

‘The Nanny Whisperer’ answers your biggest child-care questions

Kids. Licensed therapist and parenting expert Tammy Gold reveals solutions to the problems you’re too shy to ask.

Having a nanny can help you focus more on spending quality time with your child. / ISTOCK

TAMMY GOLD

PINE-TERRACE-PHOTOGRAPHY

Finding the nanny who will be the perfect fit for your family can be tricky and stressful. It’s hard enough to leave your little one to go back to work, but hiring someone who will nurture your children without usurping your control can be exhausting.

We talked to Tammy Gold, the so-called “Nanny Whisperer” and frequent contributor to “Good Morning America” and “Today,” for her best tips. For more of her advice, check out her new book: “Secrets of the Nanny Whisperer,” out now.

What’s the best way to find a nanny?

What I found works best is when a friend can really attest to the qualities of a nanny, because you’ll get the most amount of information from a solid source. If it’s a friend or a friend of a friend, you can ask a lot of questions to see if it will be a good match. But if it’s a professional connection, people sometimes don’t want to ask the hard questions.

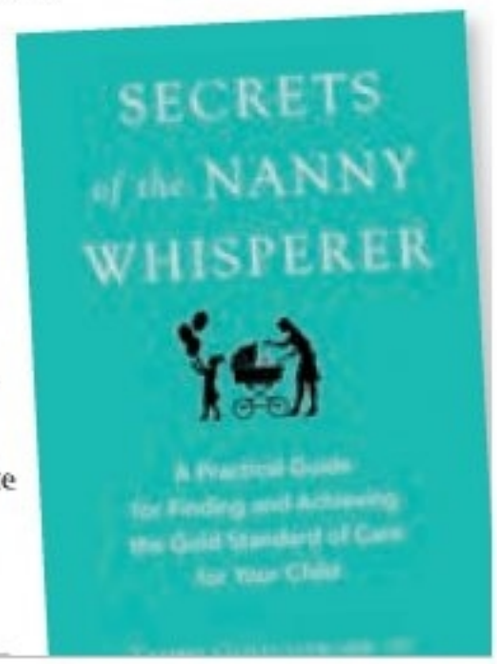
Shadow days, when the parent stays home and watches the nanny can be pretty awkward. What’s the secret to making them run smoothly?

Shadow days are so important. It’s the only way to tell if a nanny is good at what he or she says. But they can be so awkward. My book shows how to orchestrate the whole day, but the best thing you can do is start the day by saying, “Listen, I want to make sure this is right for you and you’re right for us.” Come from a place of mutuality, not a “test” to see if he or she is good enough.

It’s only awkward if you are standing around looking at each other, so show the nanny where everything is and how you live from the minute you wake up to the minute you go to bed. It’s important to give a physical orientation of where everything in the apartment is, and also an emotional orientation. What are your kids like? How should the nanny approach them? What should they talk about?

A lot of working parents feel guilty for being away from their kids or are worried their kids will bond with their nanny too much. What advice do you have for them?

Parents are so hard on themselves, especially working parents. They worry the children will love the nanny more than them, and that just doesn’t happen. The focus needs to be on quality time, not quantity time. Make rituals with your children. Parents are better seeing their children for a few hours and being present, calm and happy than being there all the time being harried and stressed.



Forming a partnership

How can a parent maintain a good partnership with their nanny while still getting across who’s the boss?

It really comes down to communication and stating your expectations up front. A lot of times, a parent will call me and say, “I’m furious she let them use the iPad.” And I’ll ask, “Did you tell her you don’t let the kids use the iPad before dinner?” and the parent will say, “Well, I told her that we didn’t really love the iPad that much.” You need to be clear up front about what you need and why: “I need the kids ready for soccer at 4 p.m. with their uniform, water bottle, shin guards and cleats because I’ll be rushing home from work and will only have 10 minutes to get them there.” Then, there’s no room for error or miscommunication and the nanny isn’t left wondering what your needs are.

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. You should take care of responsibilities that you've been neglecting. Getting your duties out of the way will be appreciated.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Make the most of your time by being helpful and showing concern. Join forces with a group that reflects your values.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't feel guilty turning down invitations if you need some time to yourself. You do so much for everyone else, at the expense of your health.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Shake up your routine and participate in a community event. Stimulate your imagination and make personal changes.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Flashing large amounts of cash will give someone the wrong impression. Pay your own way, but don't try to convince people that you are something you're not

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Don't be shy; you should discuss your dreams. Unnecessary and costly delays are likely if you are unprepared or disorganized.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Make sure you receive all the required information before you offer your opinion or advice. Don't allow a minor letdown to escalate.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to let loose and have a little fun. Plan a surprise and shower the people you love with your affection.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Self-improvement plans will bring good results. Feeling fit and healthy will boost your confidence and give you a positive mind set.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Don't let personal issues lead to indulgence. Excess will end up contributing to your troubles, not eliminating them. Ask for help.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. A decision you are toying with will be easier if you investigate the pros and cons first. Confrontations will not turn out in your favor. Remain an observer.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Don't fall for a sob story. Being too trusting will end up costing you physically, emotionally or financially.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3		6				9
		1					7	
6	5						1	
4	8	7	6		5			2
			1		4			
9			7		8	5	4	3
	6						3	5
	2					6		
5				8		4		

		1	7				6	
9		2	3		6		1	5
	6			7	9	5		3
			8		5			
8		5	1	6			9	
2	5		6		7	1		8
	8				4	9		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Don't be afraid to speak freely

Paris was attacked last week by jihadists whose demented mentality had massacred many at the Charlie Hebdo office. My heartfelt prayers go out to their co-workers, families, and friends, as well as all the people in France who are mourning the loss of their fellow country men and women. The attackers went on a killing spree because they disliked what was said and depicted by this newspaper as an attack on Islam. I found this egregious and nefarious act of barbarism to be completely intolerable. I believe no man or woman has the right to kill another for what they say. I may not agree with what someone has to say, but I will defend their right of free speech. These evildoers are home-grown and come out of many different countries and train to kill. These people must be stopped or many more innocent men, women and children will surely die. All the religious leaders of the world must stand up and shout in a loud voice and say, "We're mad as hell and will not take this anymore." They must condemn these acts of violence as evil and does not represent something required from one's higher power. Free speech must be defended at all costs or we will enter an era of despair, agony and desolation. FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

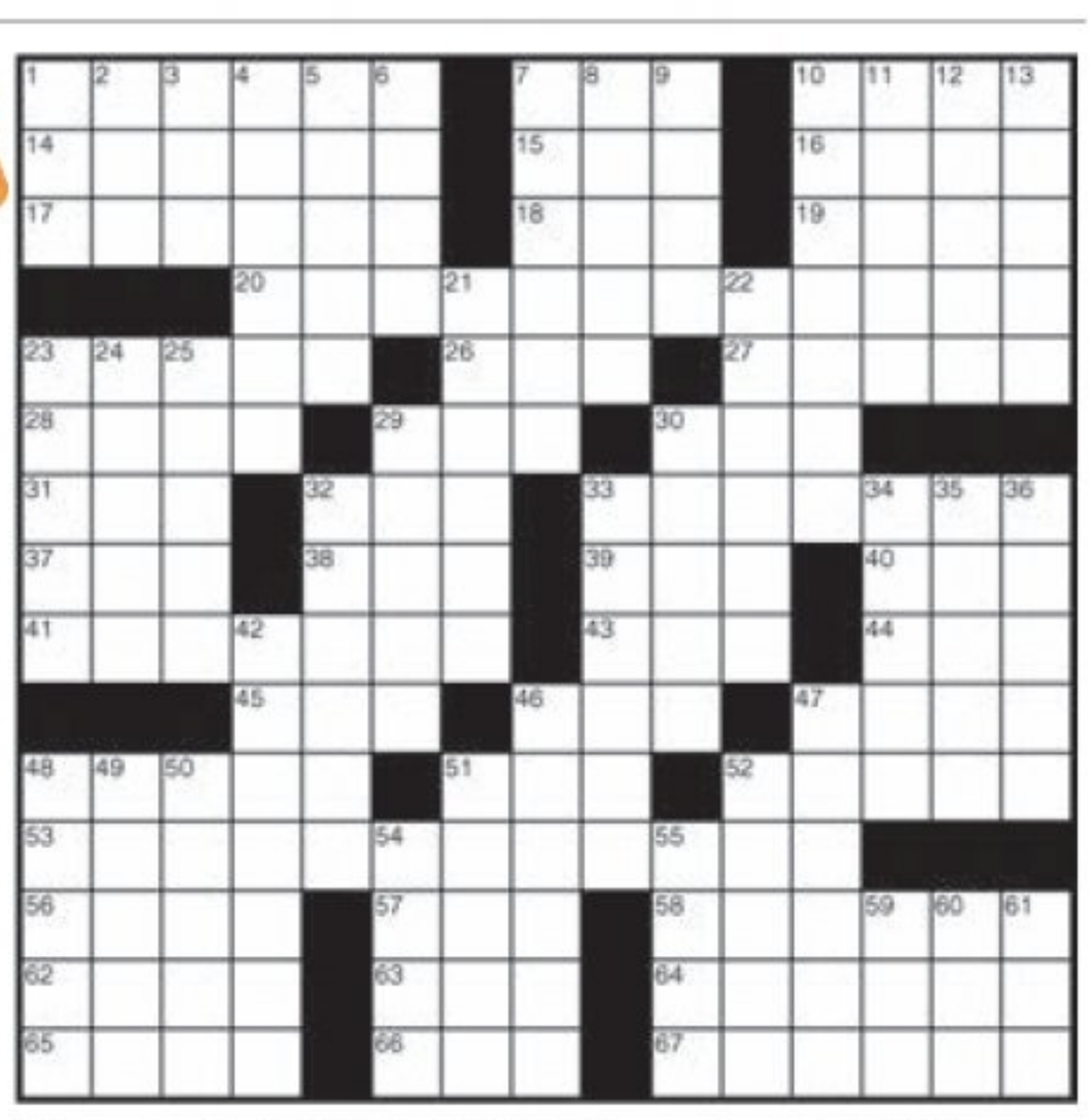
Crossword

Across

1 Beach hut
7 Mark of Zorro
10 Miss Cinders of old comics
14 Arise (2 wds.)
15 Cast a vote
16 Belt holder
17 Three-legged seats
18 Prefix for "classic"
19 Supplant
20 Xylophone cousin
23 Brubeck and Barry
26 Guitarist — Paul
27 Young girl
28 Comics pooch
29 Fictional collie
30 Barbie's beau
31 Quick turn
32 Mineral find
33 Horseshoe locale
37 Want-ad abbr.
38 He may get fleeced
39 Blow it
40 Johnny —
41 Kind of rhyme
43 Romaine
44 Umbrella spoke
45 Oddjob's creator
46 Dune buggy kin
47 Opera box
48 Bridge sections
51 Computer language
52 Chess pieces
53 Did not mince words (2 wds.)
56 BMW rival
57 Not up to snuff
58 Slickest
62 Secluded valley
63 Ailurophobe's fear
64 Lewd
65 Yin complement
66 Dangerous curve
67 Swallow

Down

1 Vaccine amts.
2 Matisse piece
3 Show disapproval
4 Farthest point
5 Declares invalid
6 Lhasa —
7 Tired out
8 Fencers' blades
9 007's alma mater
10 Fleeing to the JP
11 "Satchmo" Armstrong
12 Fails to place
13 Suitably
21 Damp
22 Slings mud at
23 Baker's —
24 Leave-taking
25 Staying power
29 Commit to memory
30 Bolshoi rival
32 Bribe, informally
33 Honey source
34 Traffic indicator
35 Hold sway
36 Paris priests
42 Going under
46 Full-price payers
47 Hen's chore
48 Too theatrical
49 Zahn or Abdul
50 Priscilla's suitor
51 Globe substitute
52 A nut
54 Board-game pair
55 Fruit or bird
59 When Paris sizzles
60 Emergency signal
61 Explosive ltrs.



Yesterday's answer

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Are the Sixers actually overachieving this year?

NBA. The Sixers are learning how to win, and are becoming a true team in the process.

The 76ers are playing their best basketball, finally. / GETTY IMAGES

With a 7-29 record, the 76ers are not quite on pace to win more games than they did last season. But with their team completely depleted of any real veteran presence and playing as underdogs in every single game this season, the Sixers may be better than you think.

A season ago, the 76ers began the year with a roster full of players who helped lead them to the playoffs a few seasons ago — Evan Turner, Thaddeus Young and others. And even with those guys on the team for nearly half the season, Philly was dead last in defense, allowing 109.9 points per game while finishing a dreadful 19-63.

This season, with much less talent and a roster that is the most youthful in NBA history, Philly is allowing 103 points defensively.

Can they win close games? Sure they can. The 76ers are winners of three of their last four, each by a margin of three or less.

And they aren't beating up on the bottom of the NBA standings, either. They have defeated two third-place teams in their respective conferences (the Heat and Cavs) and one team in second place (the Nets).

All of this is even more impressive, considering the Sixers and their 0-17 start.

"We try to stay pretty grounded and understand what we're all about and what our purpose is," coach Brett Brown said. "[The start] does seem a while ago. Whether what we've done lately has erased that stat, that fact from people's minds, I don't know."

The Sixers seek their third straight win when they host the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night. Win No. 8 may not come against the team with the best record in the Eastern Conference (29-8), but if nothing else, the Hawks will certainly be taking the Sixers seriously.

By the numbers

12

The 76ers had a dozen blocked shots in their most recent win vs. the Pacers last weekend.

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3 SPORTS

Top 5 and counting

Villanova cracks AP top 5

Following a convincing win against DePaul last week, the Wildcats jumped from No. 7 to 5 in the latest AP top 25 poll. Villanova, 12-1, sits behind Kentucky, Virginia Gonzaga and Duke. Temple did not receive any votes after a loss to Tulsa. They got 33 last week, nearly cracking the list.

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Jones: NBA used to be more physical

NBA. A former Big 5 star and 76er looks back at the big men who dominated the game in its "golden age," and reflects on a legendary career.

Jones is still an active member of the basketball community. / GETTY IMAGES

Wali Jones is Philly basketball. From his high school days in West Philadelphia to his college days at Villanova, Jones defined a city that prides itself on its basketball heritage. And it wasn't surprising that Jones rose to the NBA ranks, eventually helping the 1967 Sixers take home an NBA title.

Now working behind the scenes for the Miami Heat and on the airwaves with a weekly radio show, Jones still lives for the game that gave him so much. Jones sat down to chat with Metro about the current state of the NBA, the 76ers and the legacy of basketball in Philadelphia.

What are your thoughts about the NBA today, in comparison to what it was like in the 1960s and '70s when you played?
It's a different game. I work for the Miami Heat and used to be a scout, for 20 years, and to evaluate talent is important. We were more physical, more hands on. We were allowed to hand check. It's more wide open now. I played in the ABA for the Utah Stars, and they had the 3-point line and it was more spread out. Doug Collins says, "Guys don't run to the basket, they run to the 3-point line on a fast break."

Is guard play more important today because of the lack of dominating centers to contend with?
When we [Sixers] won the championship, it was based around Wilt Chamberlain; in Portland it was based around Bill Walton. Now it's guards and small forwards — you have scorers like Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony. I played with Walt Bellamy, Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. I played with Moses Malone, Bob Lanier. I have named some of the greatest centers of all time.

Were the 76ers-Celtics battles in the 1960s memories that stick with you?
It was a heated rivalry. With only 18 teams, when you see a team dominate for eight years, every team in the NBA was so happy we dethroned them. It was total intimidation and domination by a team that played basketball. They played defense and they ran. Sam Jones said he still feels our team was the greatest team of the first 35 years of the NBA or so.

How did those Celtics teams influence you?
It was an honor to play against those players in that era. I call it the golden era. It set the table and it allowed these players not only to have the game they do now but to also make the money they make now. I think it's important when you say "old school," that when I talk to my granddaughter, my sons that played, I talk to them about the importance of character and being professional. When I practiced I practiced like I was playing in a game. So when you are playing in the playoffs at any level it's all the same because you practiced the way you played.

What do you think of the Sixers approach to rebuilding?
They have talent. They have four or five young men who can play basketball, but they are kids. It takes time. They have to learn how to play the game and win. I like the talent. I was at a game recently, and I watch them whenever they are on TV. They are doing the right thing, they are just kids and it will come around.

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Just the facts

Wali Jones grew up in Philadelphia and has had an impressive professional career.

- Jones played at Overbrook High School a few years after Wilt Chamberlain.
- After being drafted by the Pistons in 1964, Jones rejoined Chamberlain with the 76ers from 1965-71. The team won an NBA title in the 1966-67 season.
- In his 13 years as a pro, Jones averaged just under 10 points per game.
- In addition to four years at Villanova and seven with the 76ers, Jones played for the Washington Bullets, Milwaukee Bucks, Utah Stars (ABA) and Detroit Pistons.

Philly pride

Jones still takes pride in Big 5 days

All these years later, are you still proud of your days in the Big 5?
I know Fran Dunphy, Phil Martelli, Jay Wright — it means a lot to me because the Big 5 was powerful. That competition that we had was something I will never forget. ... These teams are well coached and have good talent. You see a lot of guys come out of the Big 5 and play in the NBA who are fundamentally sound.

What are your thoughts on learning the game in Philly?
I am proud of Philly basketball; I am proud of Philly. Those rivalries growing up in the summer, it groomed me from age 12 to be a pro. We played against the best teams from New York, Washington, Baltimore. I am proud of Philly basketball. A lot of people don't know how, historically, the best who've ever played the game are from Philadelphia.

Basketball in the blood for Joneses

NBA. Wali Jones has a family of hoops stars, the latest of which is his granddaughter Elan.

To say basketball is in the Jones family is a bit of an understatement.

Wali Jones, a former NBA player with a bevy of teams including the 76ers (he was a member of the 1967 championship team), may be the only household name in the bunch, but he certainly isn't the only one who can play ball.

"My son, Mukit, played for a championship team in Philadelphia," Jones said, tracing his basketball heritage. "Another son, Kahhar, played for Ben Franklin High, and my brother Bobby played for a championship team in Overbrook before I did. My younger brother, Bill Jones, played for a championship team in West Philly High."

It doesn't stop there. Jones' two other sons, Askia and Wali Jr., also had hoops talent — Askia once scored 62 points in an NIT game with Kansas State and had a brief stint in the NBA while Wali Jr. played for Walt Hazard at Chapman College.

"We talk championships," Jones said. "We talk about character and championships."

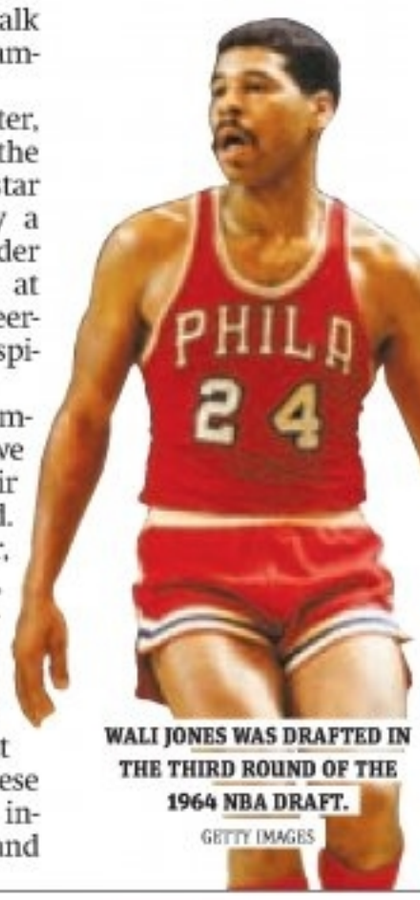
Jones' granddaughter, Elan Wali, hopes to be the next great basketball star in her family. Already a starter as a ninth grader on her varsity squad at High School of Engineering and Science, her aspirations are high.

"She has a great family around her and we talk basketball and their experiences," Jones said. "Me as a grandfather, she has her uncles, her dad and her great-uncles. In her development, she is constantly hearing the importance of being a good student and working hard. These are important values to instill in all my children and grandchildren."

By the numbers

2

Times Wali Jones was awarded the Robert V. Geasey Trophy at Villanova. The distinction is given to the best Big 5 basketball player.



WALI JONES WAS DRAFTED IN THE THIRD ROUND OF THE 1964 NBA DRAFT. GETTY IMAGES

Elan, 14, started playing hoops at age 10 and quickly learned she had a knack for the game. A natural lefty, her coaches taught her to shoot and drive with her right, making her a lethal threat offensively.

"I'm proud of being a girl who can play basketball," Elan said. "When I play with boys they treat me like, 'Oh she can't play,' but when I beat them, they want to play again. It's fun."

With so many role models in her family on and off the basketball court, Elan doesn't need to go far for advice. And her grandfather is the first to offer her help — mainly with the underappreciated attribute of endurance, a skill that helped Wali in his playing career in the 1960s and '70s.

"She works hard," Jones said of his granddaughter. "She works a lot. I am working her on the importance of conditioning. I was a runner in cross country and track at Overbrook High School, and that helped me with my career in the NBA and ABA. It's about conditioning. She's a young lady who works hard. She has a dream, like I did, to play college ball."

Elan Wali hopes to one day play in the WNBA. / MUKIT JONES

Quoted

"The lineage is there. It's so important for my family and my grandkids to know they have it in their genes." Wali Jones

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